

Message Text

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TAGS: EAID,UN,TCDC
SUBJECT: UN CONFERENCE ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES -- PLENARY MEETINGS OF SEP 6

1. SUMMARY: MORNING SESSION SPEAKERS WERE AUSTRIA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TOGO, FRANCE, GREECE, NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, UNITED KINGDOM, ITALY, MOROCCO, AND THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. THEMSE INCLUDED SUPPORT FOR USING UNDP FOR TCDC COORDINATION; NEED FOR POLITICAL WILL; TCDC AS A SUPPLEMENT TO TRADITIONAL NORTH/SOUTH COOPERATION; AND THE IMPORTANCE OF INFO AVAILABILITY. THE AFTERNOON MEETING HEARD STATEMENTS BY THE LATIN AMERICA ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA), GHANA, SUDAN, SINGAPORE, UN FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES, UN VOLUNTEERS, LIBERIA, BURUNDI, UN TRANSLATIONAL CENTER, BYALOWRUSSIA, GATT, AND EQUATORIAL GUINEA. THE THEMES OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO HIGHLIGHT: (A) TCDC A STEP TOWARD A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, (B) OPPOSITION TO ESTABLISHMENT FOR TCDC OF EITHER NEW MACHINERY OR A NEW FUND BUT EMPHASIS ON THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING MACHINERY AND ATTRACT ADDITIONAL
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FUNDS, AND (C) RECEPTIVITY TO CONTINUING AND INCREASING FLOWS OF TRADITIONAL ASSISTANCE, MODIFIED TO FACILITATE TCDC ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. AUSTRIA REPORTED THAT, WHILE IT DID NOT OPPOSE IN PRINCIPLE CREATING NEW INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY FOR TCDC, IT WAS NOT YET CONVINCED OF THE NEED. STRENGTHEN-

ING THE SPECIAL UNIT OF UNDP AND MONITORING TCDC THROUGH THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL SEEMED MORE APPROPRIATE AT THIS JUNCTURE. TOGO, WHILE SUPPORTING UNDP AS THE COORDINATING MECHANISM, HOPED THAT TCDC WOULD NOT GET LOST IN THE IMMENSE TOTALITY OF OTHER UNDP ACTIVITIES.

3. FRANCE THOUGHT THE REGIONAL BANKS AND FUNDS OUGHT TO BE THE MAIN FINANCING MECHANISMS; FRANCE WILL CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THESE JOINT EFFORTS. FRANCE'S MAIN CONCERN WAS EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY; ANY NEW MACHINERY MIGHT TEND TO COMPARTMENTALIZE TCDC. THE NETHERLANDS OPPOSED SPECIAL FUNDING FOR TCDC, BUT UNDERSCORED ITS BELIEF THAT THE OVERALL LEVEL OF RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION MUST RISE IN THE YEARS TO COME. BEYOND THIS, THE NETHERLANDS THOUGHT THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS COULD BE AN EXCELLENT MEDIUM FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS REGARDING TCDC.

4. THE UK PRESENTATION STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ALLOWING RECIPIENT COUNTRIES THE ELEMENT OF CHOICE BETWEEN TCDC AND TRADITIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. "... THE EFFECTIVENESS OF RESOURCES, RATHER THAN THEIR SOURCE, MUST REMAIN THE OVERRIDING FACTO." IN UNCLASSIFIED

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JOINING THE WIDESPREAD OPPOSITION TO A SPECIAL TCDC FUND, THE UK POINTED OUT THAT SUCH A FUND MIGHT HAVE THE PARADOXICAL PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT OF REDUCING THE LIKLIHOOD THAT UNDP AND OTHER UN FUNDS WOULD BE USED FOR TCDC.

5. MOROCCO WAS FLEXIBLE IN PRINCIPLE ABOUT INSTITUTIONS AND FUNDING, BUT THOUGHT THAT DECISIONS ON THESE MATTERS WOULD BE PREMATURE BECAUSE TCDC AND ITS SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS WERE STILL ONLY VAGUELY DEFINED.

6. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AFERNOON MEETING WERE: (A) LIBERIA AND BURUNDI TYPIFIED DEVELOPING COUNTRY STATEMENTS WITH THEIR CLEAR EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR USING AND STRENGTHENING UNDP'S TCDC FOCAL POINT AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY AS THE BEST MEANS OF POST-CONFERENCE PROMOTION OF TCDC; (B) BURUNDI ALSO REFLECTED THE CONCERNS OF MANY LLDC'S WITH APPEAL FOR MORE FUNDS TO HELP THE LEAST DEVELOPED, THE LAND-LOCKED, AND THE AFRICAN DECADE FOR TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNICATION; AND, (C) MEETING ENDED WITH SHARP EXCHANGES BETWEEN EQUATORIAL GUINEA, WHOSE STATEMENT SEVERELY CRITICIZED SPANISH

ACTIONS THERE DURING THE COLONIAL PERIOD, AND SPAIN,
WHO ON POINT OF ORDER REQUESTED THAT THOSE REMARKS NOT
BE INCLUDED IN THE RECORD.

7. COMMENT: USDEL REGRETTABLY NOTES THAT NOT ONE OF
SEVEN WESTERN COUNTRY STATEMENTS ON SEP 6
CONTAINED ANY SUGGESTIONS OR IDEAS AS TO HOW TCDC COULD
BE STRENGTHENED OR BETTER INTEGRATED INTO THE DEVELOPMENT
PROCESS.
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